

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /088 W

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R 200912Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2559

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PDEV KS KN

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA BALLOONS

1. INFORMATION MINISTER YUN CHU-YONG ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 15 THAT NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS CARRIED BY BALLOONS WERE FOUND ON FEB 10 AND 11 IN NORTHERN KYONGGI PROVINCE. HE SAID LEAFLETS APPEALED TO SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS AND CITIZENS TO RISE UP AND OVERTHROW ROK GOVERNMENT. YUN ALSO CRITICIZED NORTH FOR SIMILAR EFFORTS THROUGH VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY PARTY FOR REUNIFICATION BROADCASTS AND IN LEAFLETS MAILED TO PROMINENT ROK CITIZENS.

2. UNC HAS REPORT FROM ROK JCS J-2 THAT 53 LEAFLETS AND PARTS OF ONE OR TWO WEATHER BALLOONS EQUIPPED TO CARRY LEAFLETS WERE FOUND ON FEB 10 A11 IN KIMPO-GUN NEAR THE DMZ. LEAFLETS WERE HAND WRITTEN AND CONTAINED APPEAL TO ROK STUDENTS AND SOLDIERS TO OVERTHROW ROKG. ROK AUTHORITIES ALSO FOUND SAND WEIGHTS, INDICATING THAT BALLOONS CARRIED FAR FEWER LEAFLETS THAN FULL CAPACITY.

3. UNC IS INTRIGUED BY QUESTION OF WHY SO FEW LEAFLETS WERE FOUND WITH TWO BALLOONS. TWO EXPLANATIONS UNC REGARDS AS PLAUSIBLE ARE EITHER THAT TWO BALLOONS WERE BEING USED IN A

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TRAINING EXERCISE AND GOT AWAY OR ELSE THAT NORTH IS

APPLYING PRESSURE ON ROK GOVERNMENT WITH A TOKEN DEMONSTRATION
OF ABILITY TO RESUME LEAFLET DROPS. IN ANY CASE, UNC VIEWS
IT AS OBVIOUS THAT NORTH IS EXERCISING RESTRAINT IN USE OF
LEAFLETS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FAVORABLE NORTH TO SOUTH WINDS
WHICH WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE IN MID-MARCH.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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